

twenty-five years ago, or to the Los Angeles outbreak three years ago, but to permit the medical profession to go on record as in favor of rat-proofing building requirements, these comments are here made.

Perhaps in a near issue it will be possible to state that the proposed Los Angeles rat-proofing ordinance has become a law. If so, the public health interests of California will have secured an additional safeguard.

There is no physician, no matter what his specialty or calling may be, who has not a personal obligation in this. Knowledge is power. Physicians, like other humans, must know just what they are talking about. Bubonic plague in California came to us twenty-five years ago. It has come several times since that time. We may rest assured it will come again. As a matter of fact it has never been fully eradicated from the rodent population. The medical profession has definite opinions concerning this disease and how it may be prevented. This journal is an official publication of the profession, and it fulfills some of its obligations to the citizens of the state by telling what those preventive measures are. That is why the matter is discussed from different angles in this issue.

#### **CALIFORNIA UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOLS: ITEMS OF HISTORY; THEIR DEANS**

California has three medical colleges rated as "Class A" by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association. These are:

The Medical School of Stanford University, which carries on its preclinical work at Stanford, and its junior and senior courses in San Francisco;

The School of Medicine of the University of California, located at Berkeley and in San Francisco;

And the College of Medical Evangelists, which conducts its freshmen and sophomore years at Loma Linda, near Riverside, and its upper class work in Los Angeles.

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The schools of the two noted universities of the North are the successors of pre-existing medical institutions in San Francisco:

Stanford University having taken over in 1908 the Cooper Medical College, which in turn had come into existence in 1882 through the union of the Medical College of the Pacific (established in 1872) and the medical department of the University of the Pacific (founded in 1858 by Dr. Elias Samuel Cooper);

And the University of California having taken over the Toland Hall College founded in 1862, the nominal affiliation with the University of California taking place in 1872, and the change into an active department of the state university being made in 1902.

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In southern California, the first undergraduate medical school to come into existence was founded

in 1885 by the University of Southern California. Its sponsor and first dean was J. P. Widney, M. D., still living, who later became president of the University of Southern California. In July, 1909, this medical school, which had an affiliation with the University of Southern California similar to that of Toland Medical School with the University of California during the period 1872 to 1902, was absolved from its allegiance to the University of Southern California, and became a department of the University of California, continuing undergraduate medical teaching as such until 1914. In that year the department ceased its undergraduate work to give instruction only in clinical courses for graduates of medicine.

In 1903 another medical school, known as the College of Physicians and Surgeons, came into existence at Los Angeles, and in 1909 took the place of the former medical department of the University of Southern California, as just noted, and continued as such until the year 1920, when it suspended its work.

A third medical school came into existence in southern California in 1909 under the name of the College of Medical Evangelists, the institution being under the direct control of the Seventh Day Adventist denominational organization. Just as students in the North divide their time between Stanford and San Francisco, and Berkeley and San Francisco, so in the College of Medical Evangelists, which is the only undergraduate medical institution now existing in southern California, the students divide their time between Loma Linda, near Redlands, where the work of the first two years is carried on, and Los Angeles where provision for the junior and senior class work exists. In the news column of the Miscellany department of this issue is printed some further information concerning the College of Medical Evangelists, which in many ways is a somewhat unique institution and concerning which many members of the profession in California have only a rather limited knowledge.

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The surveys which have been made of medical institutions in the United States by the Rockefeller, the Carnegie, the A. M. A. and other organizations, have practically all stressed the desirability that at least three high grade medical schools should be located on the Pacific slope. The three cities mentioned as sites for such institutions were San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Portland.

At this time California has three "Class A" medical schools, namely, Stanford, the University of California, and the College of Medical Evangelists.

A group of colleagues in southern California have been agitating for some time the organization of an additional undergraduate medical institution, to be attached as a department of one of the universities represented in that section. What the outcome of these efforts will be is difficult to foretell, especially in these days when so tremendous an endowment is necessary if a high standard school is to be properly launched, and when

so severe an apprenticeship must be gone through by new institutions before a "Class A" rating can be obtained from the governing bodies which supervise the medical institutions of the United States.

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The medical schools of California now existing have all measured up to high standards both in performance in the work which they have carried on, and in their graduates.

William Ophüls is dean of the school of medicine of Stanford University. He is a colleague who is so well known from one end of the state to the other through his devotion to the advancement of scientific medicine, and has given of his work so often at the annual sessions of the California Medical Association that he needs no introduction to members of the C. M. A. He has the good fortune to have in back of him a colleague who preceded him as dean, and who now has the honor of being president of Stanford University, Ray Lyman Wilbur, who likewise is so well known to Californians and to members of the California Medical Association as to need no comment.

The medical school of the University of California has been working under an acting dean, L. S. Schmitt, for a number of years; but in the last month Robert Langley Porter, a San Francisco colleague, whose work as a pediatrician and as a teacher in the University of California medical school has made him very well known both at home and abroad, has been called to the deanship by the regents of the university. Doctor Porter has been spending the last three years in Europe in special study, and as he now comes back to take up his administrative and teaching duties, the good will of the medical profession of California is extended him in his new work.

In the Southland, where the College of Medical Evangelists exists, the president, Newton Evans, who is in charge of the department at Loma Linda, is quite well known. Equally prominent is the dean of the Los Angeles division, Percy T. Magan, who has not only accomplished remarkable results against tremendous odds, but who has also found time to respond to every call which organized medicine has made upon him.

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California can be proud of these administrative officers who head their undergraduate medical institutions. The California Medical Association takes pride in the high "Class A" ratings which each of these medical schools has maintained, and is in hearty sympathy with the faculties of the respective institutions in their efforts to make the standard of medical education in California measure up to the best in America and abroad. In future issues, perhaps in the Medical History column, which it is designed to bring into existence in our journal, it may be possible to give some very interesting accounts of the past of some of the older colleges. The early days of these Cali-

fornia medical institutions, their faculties, students and graduates, are not only full of interesting historical fact, but also at times carry one almost into the realm of romance.

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A new food-poisoning organism discovered by a microbiologist of the Bureau of Chemistry, United States Department of Agriculture, may possibly aid in explaining many poisoning cases that could not be attributed to organisms of the common food-poisoning group. Organisms of the latter group—known scientifically as the paratyphoid-enteritidis group—are the only ones hitherto recognized as a cause of intestinal disturbances. The new organism, although it has not been identified as any well-defined species, belongs to another group. In appearance it has much in common with the ordinary lactic types used in the preparation of "starters" for butter and cheese making.

The new organism was first believed to be a source of food poisoning when B. A. Linden of the Bureau of Chemistry found it in a sample of imported cheese held responsible for an outbreak at Biddeford, Maine, in 1925. Milk cultures of the organism were made and fed to cats in which violent intestinal disturbances were produced within a few hours. The same organism has since been isolated in two other outbreaks, in both of which cheese was the one article of food eaten by all persons affected. Organisms of the old group of food poisoners, so commonly reported to be the cause of food-poisoning outbreaks, were not found. In each of these outbreaks the streptococci, the group to which the newly found organism belongs, were recovered and fed in milk cultures to cats with results like the first trials.

So far no sickness has been produced in experimental tests except when milk was used as a culture medium. The organism will grow and multiply on meat and other media, however, and this may possibly leave many avenues open for contaminating human food.

Dr. Charles Thom, in charge of microbiological work for the Bureau of Chemistry, regards the discovery of this organism as the most outstanding achievement of the year in his field of investigation. He further suggests that while there is no general danger from this source of poisoning it does offer another forceful argument for the pasteurization of milk before using it in manufacturing dairy products.—*J. Iowa M. Soc.*

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Conquest of Diphtheria—The readers of this journal are familiar with the notable work in the city of Auburn, New York, in the attempt to demonstrate the eradicability of diphtheria, and during the course of the work we have had papers by the health officer of that city read at our meetings and published in this journal.

March 8, 1927, marked the end of the third year during which period no death from diphtheria has occurred. In the city of Auburn during 1926 only seven cases of the disease were observed, as against eighteen for 1925. During the present year seven cases have developed, four of which were in one family. Three of them had been treated with toxin-antitoxin mixture, but they had not had time to develop full immunity, though the beneficial action of the vaccination was manifested by the mildness of the disease. Of the remaining three cases one was in a boy, and one was in a baby, neither of whom had been immunized, while the third case occurred in a child who had received a single dose of toxin-antitoxin three years previously.

We have noted with great pleasure the widespread publication of these results in the daily press. One such example as Auburn has given is worth many years of talking. We believe that Auburn has demonstrated that complete eradication of diphtheria is possible. The experience in that city will make it easier for other cities to adopt the eradication plan, and even to extend it to the full acceptance of the Seymour plan.—Editorial, *Am. J. Pub. Health*.